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(11) EP 0 969 163 A3

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
02.02.2000 Bulletin 2000/05

(51) Int. Cl.⁷: E04F 15/04

(43) Date of publication A2:
05.01.2000 Bulletin 2000/01

(21) Application number: 99202903.3

(22) Date of filing: 29.04.1994

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL
PT SE

(30) Priority: 10.05.1993 SE 9301595

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
98201555.4 / 0 877 130
94915725.9 / 0 698 162

(60) Divisional application:
99203328.2 / 0 969 164

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(54) An edge lock for use in a flooring system

(57) The invention relates to a system for laying and mechanically joining building panels, especially thin, hard, floating floors. Adjacent joint edges (3, 4) of two panels (1, 2) engage each other to provide a first mechanical connection locking the joint edges (3, 4) in a first direction (D1) perpendicular to the principal plane of the panels. In each joint, there is further provided a strip (6) which is integrated with one joint edge (3) and which projects behind the other joint edge (4). The strip (6) has an upwardly protruding locking element (8) engaging in a locking groove (14) in the rear side (16) of the other joint edge (4) to form a second mechanical connection locking the panels (1, 2) in a second direction (D2) parallel to the principal plane of the panels and at right angles to the joint. Both the first and the second mechanical connection allow mutual displacement of joined panels (1, 2) in the direction of the joint.

Fig. 3a

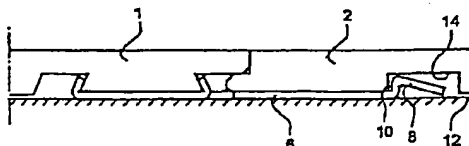
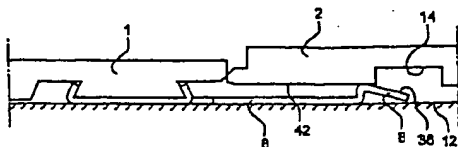


Fig. 3b



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 20 2903

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cls.)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16 December 1999	Examiner AYITER, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 (01.01.99)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EPO FORM P0488

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